



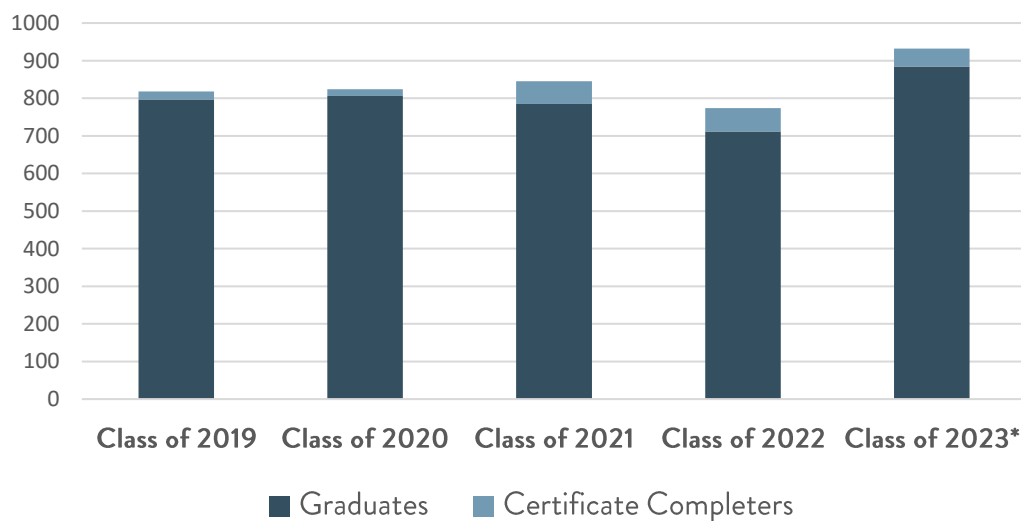
## May 2023 \\\ Board of Technical Education Report

### LATC Strategic Direction

**STRATEGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC):** The SAC met on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> for their Q2 meeting. The SAC is a sounding board for LATC administration and provides valuable guidance to the institution's mission and raises opportunities for the college and its students. Members from healthcare, agriculture, banking, investment, construction, and energy attended. Resounding themes across the industries included the challenges of recruiting workforce, the active role they're playing in retaining employees, the impact of inflation and interest rates on business activity, and the rise of automation and needs for security (physical and cyber).

**GRADUATES:** Lake Area's largest-ever graduation was held Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. 883 students were awarded degrees and diplomas; 48 were certificate completers. Former Presidents Deb Shephard and Mike Cartney were recognized as Presidents Emeritus. Dana Dykhouse delivered the commencement address. Students represented 5 countries, 13 states, and 185 South Dakota communities. While they were going to school, 76% of them held jobs. Many of them – 42% - worked more than 20 hours per week. Lake Area students invested more than 100,000 hours in community service during their college program.

**Lake Area Technical College Graduates Over Time**



## LATC Programs

**BVLOS Approval:** Lake Area Technical College's aviation program received Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval for a waiver to fly commercial, fixed wing drones beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS). This approval will benefit aviation students and will provide opportunities for students in several programs (ex. construction, agriculture, public safety, energy) to earn credentials and experience for mapping, remote sensing, imaging, and more. In addition to application in for-credit programs, the waiver gives LATC opportunity to train individuals already working in industry through the corporate education arm.

## LATC Foundation

**21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S LUNCHEON:** Governor Noem joined about 250 of Lake Area Tech's Foundation supporters on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Governor's Luncheon. During the event, \$30,000 in student scholarships were raised. The LATC Alumni Association also announced their matching donation of \$25,000 toward the I'm IN! Capital Campaign.

## LATC in the Community

**PARTNERSHIP WITH U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD:** Lake Area Tech's Diesel and Corporate Education programs supported members of the U.S. Air National Guard this spring through training in hydraulics and emissions controls. Air National Guard members from South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Guam were on campus for two weeks for instruction.

## LATC in the News

**COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CHW) OF THE YEAR AWARD:** LATC Business Specialist Heidi Wirtjes was named by the Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota as the 2023 South Dakota Community Health Worker of the Year. The award was presented on May 16<sup>th</sup> during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual South Dakota CHW Meeting.

**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING (LPN) PROGRAM RECOGNITION:** AllNurses.com recently released their LPN Top 10 rankings for 2023. The rankings included LPN programs around the country, considering NCLEX pass rates, graduation rates, student-faculty ratio, price, mode, duration, and admission rates. Lake Area Technical College's program ranked #6 for 2023! <https://allnurses.com/best-licensed-practical-nurse-lpn-t751579/>

## Campus Update

### Ag Power Diesel Lab Project

A groundbreaking for the 36,410-square-foot Ag Power Diesel Lab was held April 18 with industry, community and statewide supporters in attendance. Lt. Governor Larry Roden addressed the crowd, sharing the importance of the agricultural and transportation industries in South Dakota's economy, as well as the state's commitment to continued support of technical college projects. Construction commenced the following week, and the \$10 million project is scheduled for completion in December 2023. The project will effectively bring all MTC programs to one campus and provide a home base for five other programs -- Agricultural Business, Agronomy, Animal Science, Precision Agriculture and Power Sports Technology -- providing much-needed space to complete their own lab exercises.



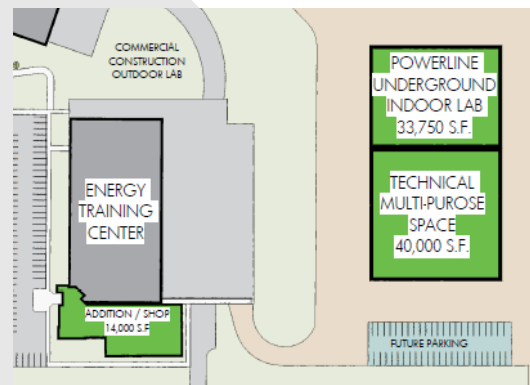
### Radiologic Technology Project

Construction on a state-of-the-art facility renovation to the Radiologic Technology department began mid-May. The project will create an additional lab space, as well as an emergency-style lab space, allowing faculty to work with three groups of students simultaneously, and providing additional opportunities for students to practice practical lab skills independently. This project, made possible by the gift of a GE Definium Tempo fixed X-ray system from Avera Health, is scheduled for completion in time for Fall classes to resume.



### Powerline Construction & Maintenance Project

The design phase has begun on a two-phase addition project for the Powerline Construction & Maintenance program. This project would include a 33,750-square-foot indoor underground lab building, as well as a 14,000-square-foot addition to the Energy Training Center. Concept drawings for both phases of the project should be available mid-June.





## Graduation Update

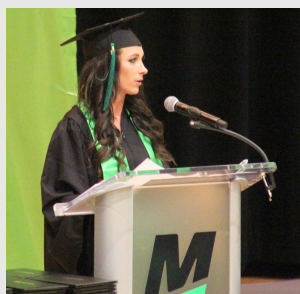
### Eagle Feather Ceremony

Eight MTC graduates were honored at a traditional Eagle Feather Ceremony in the the Muth Electric Commons on May 5. They were joined by family, friends and faculty.



### 2023 Commencement Exercise

A record 513 students were honored at MTC's 55th graduation commencement May 5 at the Corn Palace. Three ceremonies, held for each division, honored graduates from the entire year. A total 401 students have received their degrees, with 133 earning honors distinction with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, 75 of them earning a 3.75-3.99, and 23 earning a 4.0. This year, graduates were selected to serve to give the commencement address, sharing about their MTC experiences.



### 2022 Graduate Survey

For the fifth year in a row, 99 percent of Mitchell Technical College alumnireported successful outcomes within six months of graduation. Of the MTC's 466 graduates, 45 reported that they had continued their education, were serving full-time in the military, or were not seeking full-time employment at the time. Six students did not respond to the survey. Of the remaining 416, 415 reported that they are employed full-time, with 95 percent employed in a training-related career.

## Build Dakota Update

As of May 22, 2023, 121 Double-Edge Scholarships have been awarded, with employer/partner contributions totaling \$1,005,000 toward the \$2.4 million total scholarship value. An additional four Double-Edge Scholarships are anticipated to be awarded to students entering Cohort 9, and an estimated \$36,000 in partner funds expected. Sponsors of the upcoming cohort include a community foundation and the Yankton Sioux Tribe. Electrical Construction and Maintenance is the biggest industry benefactor of the program at Mitchell Tech this year, with 26 incoming students receiving scholarships. Twelve Double-Edge Scholarships have been awarded to students entering the newly approved Agronomy program.



**May 2023**

Board of Technical Education  
Robert Griggs, STC President



## **Spring 2023 Graduation Largest in Recent History**

With the spring commencement ceremony in the review mirror, STC tallied the number new graduates. During the 2022-23 year, STC awarded 918 AAS Degrees, diplomas and certificates.

## **STC Launches Mobile ID**

This month, STC launched a mobile ID credential that allows students and staff access to campus buildings and printers, as well as to make purchases on campus right from their smartphone.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/stc-launches-mobile-id.php>

## **Sports Turf Students Teach STEM on the Course**

STC Sports Turf Management students volunteered to demonstrate how maintaining a golf course requires a STEM education at the First Green Camp and Bakker Golf Course. Topics included water and soil conservation, wildlife management and more.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/sports-turf-management-hosts-first-green.php>

## **Scheduling Options Expanding for Community Health Worker Certificate**

Due to high demand, STC is piloting an 8-week option for students to receive a Community Health Worker certificate. The 16-week track will remain an option as well.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/chw-8-week-option.php>

## **Scarborough Center Director Honored at Industry Conference**

Tami Skorczewski, director of the Scarborough Center, Southeast Technical College's on-site childcare facility, was awarded the Professional Service Award by the South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children (SDAEYC) at the annual conference in Huron in April.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/tami-skorczewski-award.php>



## **STC Students Headed to National SkillsUSA Competition**



Three of Southeast Technical College's SkillsUSA competitors are invited to compete on the national level in Atlanta, Ga, June 19-23. They were among 12 students that participated in the state level competition in April in Rapid City.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/students-to-attend-national-skills-usa-competition.php>

## **STC Staffer Presents at TedX Sioux Falls**

Marcella Prokop, Southeast Technical College's Director of Access and Workforce Opportunity, spoke at the 2023 TedX Sioux Falls event on May 4. Prokop's talk, "Mentorship Can Save a Life," illustrated how anyone can be a mentor and the impact that it can have on young lives.



<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/staffer-tapped-for-tedx-talk.php>

## **Students Put Skills to Good Use Through Creative Partnerships**

A recent article highlights the community service and civil engagement efforts integrated into Southeast Tech's learning experiences.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/stc-gives-back-through-partnerships.php>

## **In the News: AgWeek Features STC Plant Sale**

AgWeek recently featured the Southeast Technical College plant sale, an annual event organized by students in the Horticulture program. Students plan everything – from what is planted, to how much is planted, to how the sale plants are displayed, to what kind of point-of-sale system they use.



<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/stc-plant-sale-on-agweek.php>



## **In the News: Southeast Tech's Collision Program Draws National Interest**

The collision repair industry is rapidly evolving, and STC's training program is evolving with it. The lab and curriculum are drawing interest in STC graduates from all corners of the country, as highlighted in a recent article in pigeon605.com.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/collision-draws-national-interest.php>

## **In the News: New STC Healthcare Simulation Center to Illustrate Value of Collaborative Design**

A recent article in Sioux Falls Business highlights the collaborative spirit in renovating and remodeling the former Zeal building to become STC's Healthcare Simulation Center.

<https://www.southeasttech.edu/news/2023/healthcare-simulation-center-illustrates-collaboration.php>



# WESTERN DAKOTA



## TECHNICAL COLLEGE

### President's Report to the South Dakota Board of Technical Education

May 18, 2023

Dear Board of Technical Education:

This past weekend our 55th annual commencement ceremony took place and we celebrated nearly 400 graduates, who earned 457 certificates, diplomas, or degrees, resulting in our largest number of credentials issued at a commencement ceremony to date. We are very proud of our graduates and are excited for their bright futures. We are looking forward to continued partnerships and opportunities to carry out our mission:

***Western Dakota Technical College prepares students to be highly skilled professionals through accessible, career-focused programs to improve their lives, while adapting to community workforce needs and positively impacting our economy.***

Thank you!



Ann Bolman, Ed.D.  
President, Western Dakota Technical College  
Rapid City, S.D.

# Outstanding Graduates Banquet



On May 5, 2023, Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) hosted the Outstanding Graduates Banquet to honor one student as the Outstanding Graduate, from each academic program. WDTC has hosted this event since 2002, and this year we had 125 guests join to honor and celebrate graduates.

# WDTC's 55th Commencement Ceremony

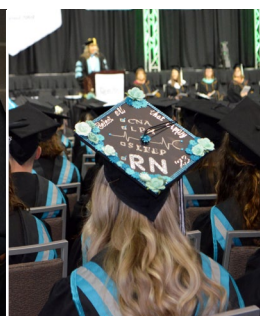
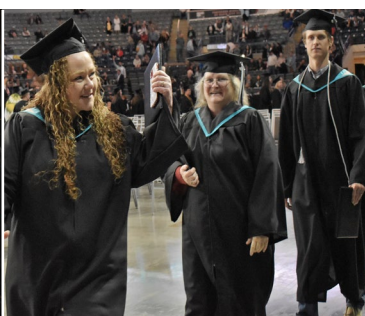


Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) had its 55th, and largest, Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 13. The event took place before a packed audience of enthusiastic loved ones and friends, of the record-setting 400 graduates, in The Monument Ice Arena. About 57 students received two or more credentials.

Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender was the Commencement Speaker. WDTC Board of Trustees Chair provided the Address on behalf of the board. Daryl Mecham, Foundation Vice-Chair gave the Foundation Address. Practical Nursing Graduate Grace Trandahl sang the National Anthem.

WDTC President Ann Bolman, Ed.D., provided the following statistics during her speech:

- Forty-six percent of the students in the class of 2023, or 190 students, are first-generation college students.
- Students graduating with Associates degrees will earn more in South Dakota, on average, than will their peers graduating with Bachelor's degrees from universities.
- Those receiving Associates degrees are likely to see a 225% return on their educational investment in just the next five years.
- and... throughout the next 10 years, all graduates combined will earn more than \$35 million more than they would have had you ended your education with high school.





# Native American Honoring Ceremony



On May 12, 2023, Western Dakota Technical College (WDTA) hosted the Native American Ceremony to celebrate graduating indigenous students. WDTA has hosted this ceremony for approximately 30 years, and this year we had nearly 200 guests join. All South Dakota tribal flags are represented during the ceremony and participating students chose what they would like their ceremony to include.

# Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing Pinning



Western Dakota Technical College (WDTA) continues to contribute to the great need for more nurses. Thirty-one Practical Nursing (PN) graduates, and 23 Registered Nursing (RN) graduates, received pins upon their graduation from the college during a special ceremony on May 13. The event took place following Commencement at the Central High School Theater before a full audience. During the ceremony, student speakers from the college's Rapid City and Whitewood PN programs spoke as did a representative for the RN class. Awards were also presented to PN and RN outstanding graduates.

# Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Pinning



The Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Pinning Ceremony took place before the WDTA Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 13. Class 005 is the first class to graduate with WDTA's recently earned Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA) accreditation. Nine students completed the Law Enforcement academy.



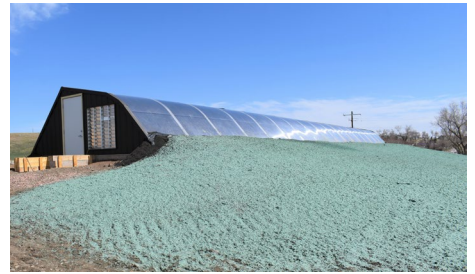
## WDTC Annual Earth Day Expo



On April 22, 2023, WDTC hosted the annual Earth Day Expo, where numerous organizations from around Rapid City came together to educate the public on various sustainability programs through activities. An estimated 700 visitors attended the 6-hour event. EchoWorks, a subsidiary of Black Hills Works and partner of WDTC, offered free electronics recycling, bringing in nearly 12,000 lbs. of recycled electronics.

Joining for the Earth Day Expo included sustainability officials from our sister city, Apolda, Germany.

## WDTC New Geothermal Greenhouse



To provide alternative options to grow crops without relying on suitable weather conditions, WDTC students are learning how to grow crops in a greenhouse environment. This project includes extensive student involvement, with construction technology students building the structure, HVAC students installing vents, and students from the controlled environment agriculture program taking care of the plants.

